

CBSE makes arts a must for all classes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: From this academic session, arts education will be taught in classes I to XII in all schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Every school will have to reserve at least two periods per class every week for this mandatory subject.

All four main streams coming under arts — music, dance, visual arts & crafts, and theatre — will be included in the curriculum. The schools have been told that the emphasis should be given to learning rather than teaching, and the approach should be participatory, interactive and experiential rather than instructive.

The board has also said the students of upper primary sections — classes VI to VIII — should also be introduced to culinary art by establishing multi-disciplinary links across their subjects.

“This should be done so that they learn the value of nutritious food, about the crops and spices grown in India, how oil is extracted from various seeds, good agricultural practices and pesticides use,” CBSE said in a statement. “An attempt has been made to enlist traditional foods of various states, with the idea that learners must also be exposed to this aspect of our culture.”

Schools have also been recommended to introduce a few cooking classes, where girls and boys participate as equals in classes VI to VIII.

“Schools are free to devise their own processes with two pre-conditions — all safety

aspects shall be well taken care of and it should be a fun learning activity,” CBSE said. All schools are also expected to make concerted efforts to integrate art in the pedagogy and use it as a tool for imparting joyful education in all classes.

For the subject, process-oriented evaluation will be carried out, but no exam. “Theory, practical and project work will be the basic components of all art forms to be taught.”

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While explaining the importance of integrating arts education in the education system, CBSE has cited several examples of how it can be done. “For example, the routine method involving studying metallurgy in chemistry, or mitosis and meiosis in biology when integrated or taught through art would provoke the student to ask questions such as — “if I were a metal, how would I artistically depict my journey of combination with other metals or how can I use a *nukkad natak* (street play) to depict mitosis/meiosis.”

Another example suggests that the meaning of a difficult poem can be taught by breaking each line into a dialogue spoken by Amitabh Bachchan or James Bond or set to music based on Bollywood songs.